



# Minnesota Ag News - Labor

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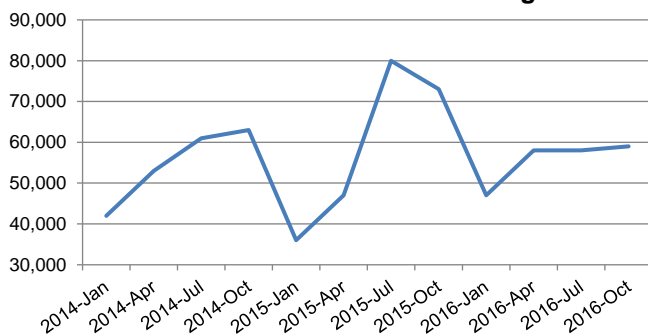
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Media Contact: Dan Lofthus

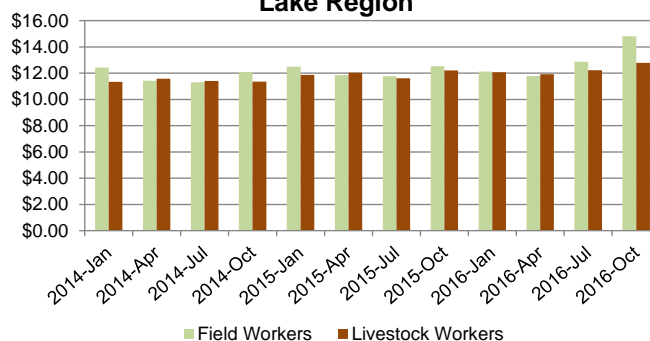
There were 58,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of July 10-16, 2016, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.24 per hour, up \$0.68 from July 2015. The number of hours worked averaged 38.5 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 38.3 hours in July 2015.

During the reference week of October 9-15, 2016, there were 59,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$14.67 per hour during the October 2016 reference week, up \$1.39 from October 2015. The number of hours worked averaged 42.1 for hired workers during the reference week, up from 41.5 hours in October 2015.

**Number of Workers - Lake Region**



**Wage Rates by Type of Worker  
Lake Region**



## Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Lake Region and United States: 2015-2016

[Lake Region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin]

	Lake Region			United States		
	October 2015	July 2016	October 2016	October 2015	July 2016	October 2016
Hired workers on farms .....1,000 workers	73	58	59	841	840	798
Hours worked by hired workers .....hours per week	41.5	38.5	42.1	41.7	41.2	41.6
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined ..... dollars per hour	12.40	12.60	14.10	12.09	12.27	12.50
Field ..... dollars per hour	12.53	12.87	14.82	12.11	12.32	12.59
Livestock ..... dollars per hour	12.20	12.23	12.78	12.02	12.15	12.25
All hired workers ..... dollars per hour	13.28	13.24	14.67	12.82	13.02	13.25

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

## UNITED STATES LABOR

Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 798,000 for the reference week of October 9-15, 2016, down 5 percent from the October 2015 reference week. There were 840,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 10-16, 2016, down 4 percent from the July 2015 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$13.25 per hour during the October 2016 reference week, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$12.59 per hour, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$12.25, up 2 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.50 per hour, was up 3 percent from October 2015. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.6 hours during the October 2016 reference week, compared to 41.7 hours a year earlier.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$13.02 per hour during the July 2016 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$12.32 per hour, up 5 percent. Livestock workers earned \$12.15 per hour, up 3 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.27 per hour, was up 4 percent from July 2015. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.2 hours during the July 2016 reference week, compared to 41.0 hours a year earlier.

The 2016 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$12.98 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2015 annual average wage. The 2016 U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$12.25 per hour, up 5 percent from the 2015 annual average. The 2016 U.S. annual average combined wage for field and livestock workers was \$12.20, up 4 percent from the 2015 annual average of \$11.74 per hour.

For the October 2016 reference week, the largest increases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. Northeast II saw the largest increase, with 36 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Cornbelt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont) regions. The Cornbelt I region saw the largest decrease, with 22 percent less workers during the reference week.

Average wage rates increased from the previous year, in most regions. The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Appalachian I, Lake, and Northeast I regions.

For the July 2016 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. The Northeast II region saw the biggest increase, with 18 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont) regions. The Lake region saw the largest decrease, with 28 percent less workers during the reference week.

Average wage rates increased from the previous year, in most regions. The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Northeast I, and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions.